

2001 CRANBERRY HIGHLIGHTS

New Jersey cranberry growers produced on average 182.6 barrels per acre in 2001. This average yield per acre is the highest yield ever recorded in the state. Our record book on yield dates back to 1900. In spite of record high yields, harvested acreage was down, the price was low, and producers realized a total value of utilized production of \$7.95 million, compared to \$32.9 million in 1997. Cranberry price per barrel did rise to \$19.30 per barrel in 2001, compared to \$15.90 in 2000 and \$10.10 in 1999. Besides these two years (1999 and 2000), the average price in 2001 was the lowest price since 1977 when it was \$18.80 per barrel.

New Jersey ranks third in the nation in the production of cranberries. New Jersey cranberry production during 2001 totaled 566,000 barrels, up 16 percent from the 2000 crop of 489,000 barrels. Of the 566,000 barrels harvested, 412,000 were utilized. Utilized production was 73 percent of total production, compared to 96 percent in 2000 and 100 percent in 1999. Harvested cranberry acres continued the decline which started in 2000 with a total of 3,100 acres harvested in 2001. This total for harvested acreage is 600 acres less than last year's, and is the lowest acreage harvested in the state since 1983. On the positive side, the spectacular yield of 182.6 barrels per acre was 50.4 barrels per acre more than in 2000.

The United States cranberry harvested acreage, at 34,200, was down 2,400 acres from 2000. Washington was the only state to show an increase in acreage. Wisconsin and Oregon acreage remained the same. The average yield in 2001 was 155.8 barrels per acre nationwide, a decrease of .3 barrels from the 156.1 average barrels in 2000. Total production, at 5.33 million barrels in 2001, was down 7 percent from the 5.71 million barrels the previous year. Massachusetts showed the largest decrease in production, down 537,000 barrels.

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